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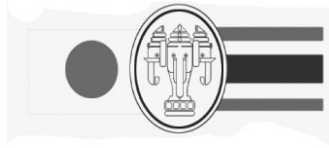
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The History of Thai Students' Association in Japan under Royal Patronage (TSAJ)



Thai Students' Association in Japan under Royal Patronage (TSAJ) was initiated in 1897 when the first batch of Thai students arrived Japan. They were supported by the scholarship from the King of Thailand, which was later known as the King's scholarship. After that, the number increased until it was possible to form the Association in 1939. On April 4, 1939, we received the name "under Royal Patronage" from H.M.'s kindness.



During World War II, the Thai Embassy building was severely damaged. Most of the documents were burnt. Our activities had to stop temporarily. After World War II was over, a meeting was held at the Kokusai Gakuyuukai. At the meeting, it was decided that the Association should continue its activities and the rules of the Association should be reconsidered and changed to suit the situation.

Therefore, on December 10, 1954, a group of committee was appointed at Thai Embassy to restart and continue the Association. From then until today, the Association has been working actively and this year (2008-2009) is the 69th batch of the committee and members.

TSAJ Tokyo welcome party 2008



24 May 2008, Komaba

The 69th TSAJ Committees

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Thai Students' Society in Hiroshima

By Seksak Chouichom

On 13th April of every year, Songkran Festival is held in every part of Thailand. Songkran is known as Thai New Year which is based on Thai's traditional calendar system. Since on this day the Thai people will sprinkle water on others to wish them good luck, it is also known as "The Water Festival" in many Asian countries such as Japan and China.



Every year, both Thai students who are studying in Hiroshima University and members of Thai-Hiroshima Fellowship Association join a lot of activities including Songkran Festival as well. Thai people and Thai students here usually congregate at the temple to celebrate this festival one time a year. We pour the water mixed with Thai fragrance on the Buddha statues to clean them once a year. We believe that doing this will bring good luck and prosperity for the New Year. During this time, younger people like us ask blessings from the elders by pouring water from silver bowls on their hands to show the respect, and then the elders sprinkle it on our hands. It is like refreshing the New Year and washing away bad luck



Besides, we also enjoy throwing water. We are very happy to do all activities together with friends and present Thai culture to let foreigners in Hiroshima know more about Thailand.

Thai Students' Society in Kanazawa

By Prapong Prechaprapranwong

Kanazawa, the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, is the biggest city in the Hukuriku region. Kanazawa is surrounded by the Japan Alps, Hakusan National Park and Noto Peninsula National Park, and is also the home of Kanazawa castle and Kenroku-En, one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. Kanazawa has a long history with its own tradition and lifestyle derived from the Kaga Clan. Nowadays, Kanazawa is flourishing as the hub of political, economic, educational, and cultural activities in the Hokuriku District.



Kanazawa University is a national university of Kanazawa city. It is made up of 3 colleges, 16 schools and 7 graduate schools. Each year, more than 350 international students from over 40 countries are admitted. There are about 20 Thai students, as graduate students, research students, and exchange students (KUSEP). Most of them are studying in the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, the Graduate School of Education and the Graduate School of Medical Science. Kanazawa University Student Exchange Program

(KUSEP) students come from many partner universities in Thailand such as Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Kasertsart University and Chiangmai University, to study in Kanazawa for 1 or 1.5 years.

We appreciate the opportunity to live in Japanese society and participate in its cultural activities. We are also encouraged by the Ishikawa Prefectural-Kingdom of Thailand Amity Association (Ishikawa - Thailand association) who provides a place and some budget for teaching Thai language and Thai's traditional dance every Saturday afternoon. Moreover, in summer, ! through cooperation between Ishikawa-Thailand association and Thai students, we open a booth selling Thai food once in the Japan Tent festival and again in the City's festival.



On Christmas and New Year, Thai students and Ishikawa-Thailand association members gather up with the purpose of cultural exchange with each other. We have dinner and enjoy New Year's celebration together. Winter in Kanazawa brings heavy snowfall, thus we often have chances to go skiing. Not to mention other activities throughout the year. Having dinner together every week and organizing trip every vacation, we are a small but closely bounded group of Thai students who live in Kanazawa with a simple and friendly lifestyle.

Thai Students' Society in Kyoto

**Written by Mutarika Pruksapong; translated by Yuwa Chompoobutrgool;
approved by Weerawut Chaiwat and Surawut Chuangchote**



Sakura at Kiyomizu-Dera and momiji at Kinkakuji

blossom) and in October for 'momiji' (maple). Unlike any other cities, Kyoto has an excellent-integrated culture between modern and old traditional times. That is why it is not surprising to see hundred thousands of people coming to Kyoto each and every year.

At present, there are approximately 70-80 Thai students living and studying in Kyoto City. Many of them are pursuing their degrees in Bachelor, Master or Doctoral, as well as research studies at well-known universities in Kyoto, for example, Kyoto University, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Doshisha University, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto Prefectural University, Kyoto University of Education, etc. Moreover, there are also Thai students attending various language schools for Japanese Language studies. The university in Kyoto which has the largest number of Thai students is Kyoto University, also known as 'Kyodai' (京大), the second university found in Japan which was established on 18th June, 1897. Each year, approximately 13,200 undergraduate students and 9,400 graduate students enter Kyoto University, and among them including 45-50 Thai students.

For activities in Kyoto, every year, there are two welcome parties held for newcomers; once in April and another in October. We, Thai students in Kyoto, have been organizing these parties for years, as it is our tradition. Instead of going to a restaurant, the 'senpai' (seniors or those who have stayed in Kyoto) will bring their own professional-class cooking and enjoy it with the newcomers at our city's most famous river, 'Kamogawa'. There, by the river, it is not only the place for parties but where we can enjoy a nice breeze, the pleasant nature, and view of ducks floating in the river.

Important activities of Thai students in Kyoto are related to activities of Thai Students' Association in Japan under Royal Patronage (TSAJ) and the Royal Thai Consulate General, Osaka, such as pick up new comers from the airport, academic meeting, sport days, ski trip, travel, and so on. In daily life, after school or during weekends, many of us always gather and do activities together; for example, eating at someone's place or dining out, shopping in town, or going karaoke. Other activities include photo-taking, doing sports such as football, basketball, badminton, jogging by the river as well as cycling.



Kyoto Ski Trip 2008

Kyoto is located in the west of Japan's Honshu Island. It was an old capital of Japan in Heian period, the last division of classical Japanese history, running from 794 to 1185. Kyoto has always drawn tourists from all over the place to appreciate its beauty, especially in April for the infamous 'sakura' (cherry

blossom) and in October for 'momiji' (maple). Unlike any other cities, Kyoto has an excellent-integrated culture between modern and old traditional times. That is why it is not surprising to see hundred thousands of people coming to Kyoto each and every year.

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Thai Student Welcome Party in Kyoto (April, 2008)

The relationship among Thai students in Kyoto is very friendly and tight-knitted. We are like a big family always helping each other regardless it being academic or non-academic. Moreover, not only do we have a friendly relationship among ourselves, we also arrange activities with other students from other cities, like Kansai area, to strengthen our friendships among Thai students in Japan.